



**City of Bloomington
Environmental Commission**

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, April 18, 2013, 7:00 pm
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions (5 min)
 - A. New intern, Steven Flowers, from Indiana State University
2. Announcements (8 min)
 - A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, May 16th, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
 - B. Next Planning Committee meetings: April 24th, May 15th, 4:10 pm, Planning Dept.
 - C. Next Tree Commission meeting: May 15th, 9:30 am, Rose Hill Office
 - D. Next BCOS meeting: May 14th, 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room
 - E. Next Co. Environ. Quality & Sus. Com. meeting: May 8th, 5:30 pm, Rm 100 Showers North
 - F. Echo Heroes award ceremony: April 24th, 5:30 pm, City Hall atrium
 - G. ***Imagine Bloomington Note

3. Approval of March minutes (5 min)

4. Public comment (5 min)

5. Committee reports & discussions (70 min)

- A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (15 min: Chaim, Dianne, Mike, Linda)
 - i. Restraunte Japanee (located near Bluebird)

Want to enclose patio, make the building two stories tall after they suffered from a fire (add a second story on to the front of the building). What they're asking for follows code, no landscaping since what they're asking to goes all the way to the property line. The one thing that's odd about the project is the look of it, it looks like a tacky add on. The ECPC decided to even have a memo about since on an addition there isn't a lot to do when it's just an add on. Carissa asked if the structure will interfere with traffic, but Linda says it's within code.

- ii. Kilroys

Very similar to Japanee project; they have a patio area on the NW side, and they would like to enclose that; their current hours are 3pm-3am, and they want to open at 11am to serve lunch/brunch. If this gets approved, they would like to enhance their kitchen. They have to ask for a variance because they don't want to be as tall as it's supposed to be downtown, and instead of a flat roof (required), they want to have a pitched roof. They want to have sliding glass windows all around, and the roof will be like shingles that can retract in any configuration (made out of polycarbonate, so recyclable, better insulation value than glass, but glass is like zero), plan to have plants on the inside in pots, since they're building right up to the sidewalk, going to heat in the winter using big space heater things similar to Yogis. The other variation is modulations. We could comment on the efficiency of the materials, but as Albright says, there isn't much we can suggest they change. Linda says it's kind of a yes or a no.

- iii. Fox Apartments (Washington Street between Smith and Second, what used to be Ellis Floral and Goldcasters)

Want to build a 4-story brick apartment building with 26-units, with a total of 27 beds. (21 1 bedroom, 3, 2-bedroom units). Parking on the first floor, 13 parking spaces. The only thing that stands out about this

project is that they will be asking for a variance on the first floor windows (void-to-solid), on the roof, they will have a gathering spot for their tenants, and place for small gardens. ECPC said green building, recycling space, veg in front instead of lawn grass, and yay to garden roof stuff. Dedaimia wonders if the entire first floor is devoted to parking? There isn't enough parking, puts pressure on the public commons. Where will the people park? Jung mentions how excellent the bus system is, but Dedaimia said that many people have cars but don't drive everyday. Linda says the ordinance has been changed to specify maximum parking spaces rather than minimum. In this zoning district, you don't have to have any parking. Dedaimia suggests we "squeak" about the parking.

B. L4L Committee garden show & sign update (15 min: Diane, Kriste, Emily)

i. Farmer's market: Jung hasn't been to the farmer's market much because of the weather and illness, but she expects to be there from here on except from June 29th when she will be at the Fiddler's Ground. Emily may be able to make 2 per month. If you would like to be a part of team, great. I feel pretty good about the total abundance of information that's valuable, maybe another brochure on bees, and possibly about grasses, and instead of making the lawn be no lawn, she's actually now planting more grasses. Jaguar is a really good grass for this area...increasing that effort, as it is L4L, beautiful lawn without lawn treatments and toxins. Jung still has the goal of doing the give aways and the show-and-tells (lavender sachets, etc). Jung learned a little bit more about Mason Bee Habitat's, you have to clean the habitat out every year, you can't use certain materials and so on. Bug fest is happening (Sandy Belth and Hilltop, Jun 22nd, 10-4PM), would like to have someone table the event with our brochures, and Jung can't do both the market and the fest and hopes someone else will volunteer. Jung wasn't able to get a PSA yet for L4L, but she did contact an instructor at IU and said he would be willing to do it for her, and Jung was contacted for an article in a green newsletter, and she thought she would be able to use an article from a previous service learning student, but she doesn't think that's appropriate, and so she is still working on that. Also a Bloomingfood article. She wants to focus this summer on the archer foundation grant, when they tried to do that last summer, there were a lot of questions related to children, interactive/computer simulation, children make decisions about putting a garden together, capstone project for informatics students, tie that in to the archer grant process. Jung also thinks that there should be another neighborhood organization farmer's market (occurs at the same time as the others farmer's market), same stuff, show and tell stuff, poison ivy spray to kill poison ivy, bee bath, butterfly try attracter feeder tray, also bumper stickers. Got 50 more signs, close to half of the new signs went at the master gardener show.

C. BEQI Committee air discussion (20 min: Carissa, Carrie, Jayne)

i. Dedaimia brings up overall between sustainability committee and EC, is there room for cooperation there? Litwin suggests

Albright suggests that both groups produce quality documents, from what Linda understands they're working a lot on food and energy. Albright suggests that the BEQI committee can keep in touch with them, help out with (Claire Cumberland is the natural landscaping person).

D. Tree commission and BCOS

i. BCOS: Matt Press, responsible for the Dunn Street project, he's building places for people to live and retail space along the B-line trail. World Future Society (urban renewal stuff), new urbanism is happening in other cities (Denver, Chicago), whole notion of reenergizing the urban space, making it more usable. (also overlaps)

ii. Tree Co. Vectran came calling, want to cut down 25 city trees to maintain their easement, there is no emergency, this is forward thinking. The remaining trees are reasonable large in front of royal Chevrolet. One of the things that was really interesting, the people on the tree commission take offense when some one comes in and wants to take out a lot of trees; has been informal policy of asking people to replace trees they cut down 3:1, Vectron doesn't normally do that, the decision hasn't been made yet. The tree commission got its hand slapped a little bit at the previous meeting because it went into executive session. The guy who wants to cut down 10 trees to move his driveway, the tree commission asked him to leave so they could discuss it (executive session), but they cannot do that—out sessions are open to the public. The guy complained to the mayor, and the city attorney came and told the tree committee that they couldn't do that. Write a policy about what regarding corporations and utilities who want to cut down trees. Linda: Vectron wants to maintain their underground gas pipes the same way they maintain their overhead wires; with a couple of pipeline explosions lately, they have decided to do the same maintenance with their underground gas pipes. Vectron came to the commission because it's not their easement; on location that they have their easement, they just cut them down, but the 25 trees of interest are in the City's easement. Their point is that there's no problem now, just a policy change in case there was ever any leak in the future, they wouldn't have to cut down trees, they could just come in and fix it. The question of the tree commission is just, do they say "sorry, we

don't care what happened in the future, don't cut down our trees," or ask them to hold them to replacing the trees more than 1:1, and also a full fledged plan, this problem threatens all of our trees; what happened in the future when they want to take down everything...Dedaimia: tree commission has things they want to do, but administratively they need some help. It's the roots that generally cause the problem, the homeowners have also cause problems by digging around and hitting the cords, etc. so you may damage the wire. They utilities don't provide a map...Linda searched for an hour for the high pressure mains, and couldn't find it anywhere. It would be great to have it on the city's GIS, the high pressure lines.

E. GPP: Culture, environment, human condition. They spent almost the entire meeting on culture (meeting every week, 3 meeting per issue). Talked about obstacles and constraints to increasing access to art downtown. Property values are the biggest issue, artists can't afford to live downtown. UDO requirement to add art to new buildings? Then that lead to architecture.

6. Old business (5 min)

A. Internship update (5 min: Linda)

7. New business (20 min)

A. Andy is resigning from the EC, got a fancy new job in St. Louis.

A. Waste Reduction Committee projects (10 min: Carrie, Carissa, Andy) (taste of Bloomington recycling station)

i. Taste of Bloomington had huge recycling center, with BCOS, Hype group and Downtown Bloomington organization to make sure that recycling stuff got recycled. Jacky and Carrie met, and the quick run down is that they're going to do the same thing they did last year, and BCOS will do the same, Chamber of Commerce will do the same, and Edgeworth High School has something as well...this year, fewer trash bins, but also recycling and have volunteers at every station (50 ppl at least). The date is June 22nd (same day as the Bug fest). Contact Bet Sicitch (volunteer coordinator), Emily Rex (IU center for sustainability). Last year there were a ton of volunteers, this year maybe do some volunteer orientation. Also looking to have something like a bike flag to identify the trash space...see how much they cost. Gale Health, discardia, borrow them from Lotus. Reusable utensils? 14000 people that go through the taste of Bloomington, also health code violation. Something more like lotus, spreading out over the city. Issue utensils with the ticket?

B. EC guest speaker discussion (10 min: Carissa)

i. References the idea of having someone come in every couple months or so to become more knowledgeable about, or someone from the "other side." So, what kind of holes do we want to fill in? Rick Deets—Monroe Co. Planning Commission. Mo. Co. has someone come in for 10-15 minutes come in every meeting, right now focus on water. Some of their ideas, effect of light pollution in the area, state of agriculture in Monroe county (ag vs. urban ag) Amy Thompson from Purdue Extension, Lou May from public transit, someone from organic farming, someone from BCOS/EC about what we do. May would like to hear about Green Infrastructure. (Matt Prest?) Jung, Monroe Co Env't'l Co, what they do, areas for collaboration. Linda went to last Mo Co EC meeting, one of the things they talked about Landfill Gases. Water department. Water ban? Concerns for the future, what the problems are, etc. Tour the facility? Mike Hicks? Toxins: Rachel Atz. [Dude from March minutes]. Guy from foresters conference talking about land trusts, in particular urban land trusts. Transportation. Bloomington Transit.

C. EC Handbook (Carissa) 8:49

i. Paper copy, convert pdf to word (Linda got it converted by the tech department), she just wants to update it, get it approved. In particular commissioner responsibility, and what is appropriate commissioner behavior in terms of getting things voted on and so on. Bring concerns to the next meeting, she will email electronic copy before the next meeting.

D. Summer intern committees:

i. Jayne's committee: developer committee database. [Explain what the conditions of approval database is]. Communicate with utilities, as far as water is concerned (Phil Pedene @bloomington.in.gov), detention basins and rain gardens in particular. Certain petitions have specific conditions on those. Dedaimia; Diane May.

ii. Steven's project: GHG inventory→Climate action plan for Bloomington. Dedamia will work as copy-editor. Deborah Myerson and Carrie Albright will work on the committee. [Steven is only here Tuesday/Thursday]. Linda will contact Deborah and Carrie for meetings.

E. Eco Heroes 9:04

i. 75-80 total entries, but more participants because there were group and parter projects, \$975 in sponsorships as well as gifts, around 8- ppl attended the event. Served cookies, popcorn and juice, the mayor came. The one fault may have been that there was very little high school participation (only Linda's son). Communication with Monroe County Schools, reaching outside of the school system to spread the message. The mayor was glowing and raving about Eco Heroes.

8. Commissioner announcements (15 min)

i. May: interesting reading in the latest New Yorker, replace Styrofoam with mushrooms.

ii. Kristie: Storm water related: adopt a stream program for the city and county, doing a push on that next month, have it together for the fall (adopt a trail program is very successful) Pilot projects on Cascades Creek IU Human Biology, and Heather Reynolds, and Clear Creek down south, with IU chemistry. "Service learning" Kristie is going out with utilities guys, working on erosion control, training for the inspectors. Also erosion issues works for state and federal reporting entities, also have the green spots tour coming up in June. Greenspots.in.

9. Adjournment